

roads," lie declared, "that has been put upon the statute books during the last six years has been a step in advance in the right direction. . . . There can be no swerving from the course that has thus been marked out in the legislation actually enacted and in the messages in which I have asked for further legislation. We best serve the interests of the honest railway men when we announce that we will follow out precisely this course. It is the course of real, of ultimate conservatism. There will be no halt in the forward movement toward a full development of this policy; and those who wish us to take a step backward or to stand still, if their wishes were realized, would find that they had incited an outbreak of the very radicalism they fear."

Speaking at Keokuk, Iowa, on October 2, 1907, he said: "A year or two ago certain representatives of labor called upon me and in the course of a very pleasant conversation told me they regarded me as the * friend of labor/ I answered that I certainly was, and that I would do everything in my power for the laboring man except anything that was wrong. I have the same answer to make to the business man. I will do everything I can do to help business conditions, except anything that is wrong."

He made similar speeches in Illinois, Missouri, Mississippi and Tennessee.

His annual message to Congress, December 3, 1907, was even longer than usual, for all his annual messages were long, and gave more space than in previous messages to the subject of governmental regulation of

corporations. "Until
the National Government," he said, "assumes
proper control of interstate commerce, in the exercise of
the authority
it already possesses, it will be impossible
either to give
to or to get from the railroads full justice. . . .
The anti-
trust law should not be repealed, but it
should be made
both more efficient and more in harmony with
actual conditions. It should be so amended as to forbid
only the kind
of combination which does harm to the general
public, such
amendment to be accompanied by, or to be an
incident of,
a grant of supervisory power to the
Government over these